

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to amend the turkey dates and limits for the 2012 season.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting and WMA Regulations

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Season

§115. Turkey Hunting Areas, Seasons, and Bag Limits

A. Daily limit is one gobbler. Season limit is two gobblers. Turkeys taken on WMAs are part of the season bag limit. Only one turkey may be taken during spring WMA lottery hunts.

B. Turkey season will open in the South Zone on the Saturday nearest March 22 and in the North Zone the Saturday nearest March 29. The Areas A and D turkey season will be 30 consecutive days in length, the Areas B and E turkey season will be 23 consecutive days in length, and the Areas C and F turkey season will be 16 consecutive days in length. Wildlife Management Areas, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land may vary from this framework. Deviation from this framework may occur in those

years when the Saturday nearest March 22 or 29 falls the day before Easter.

C. Statewide Youth Turkey and Physically Challenged Season on private lands shall be the weekend prior to the start of each zone's regular turkey season.

D. Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed herein are open to turkey hunting. All other Wildlife Management Areas are closed.

E. 2012 Turkey Hunting Schedule

SOUTH ZONE

AREA	SEASON DATES
A	March 24 - April 22
B	March 24 - April 15
C	March 24 - April 8
Private Lands Youth and Physically Challenged Hunter (Wheelchair Confined) Hunt	March 17-18

NORTH ZONE

AREA	SEASON DATES
D	March 31 - April 29
E	March 31 - April 22
F	March 31 - April 15
Private Lands Youth and Physically Challenged Hunter (Wheelchair Confined) Hunt	March 24-25

F. Wildlife Management Area Turkey Hunting Schedule

WMA	Non-Lottery Hunt Dates	Lottery Hunt Dates
Attakapas	March 24 - April 1	None
Bayou Macon	None	April 14-15
Bens Creek	March 24 - April 8	None

Big Lake	March 31 - April 15	None
Bodcau	March 31 - April 15	None
Boeuf	March 31 - April 8	None
Clear Creek	April 2 - April 22	March 24-25 March 31 April 1
Camp Beauregard	March 24 - April 1	None
Dewey Wills	None	April 14-15 April 21-22
Fort Polk	March 24 - April 22	None
Grassy Lake	March 24 - April 1	None
Hutchinson Creek	March 24 - April 22	None
Jackson- Bienville	March 31 - April 15	None
Lake Ramsey	March 24 - April 8	None
Little River	March 24 - April 8	None
Loggy Bayou	None	April 13-15
Peason Ridge	March 24 - April 22	None
Red River	March 24 - April 8	None
Sabine	None	April 14-16 April 20-22
Sandy Hollow	March 24 - April 8	None
Sherburne	March 29-30	March 24-25 March 26-28
Sicily Island	None	March 24-26 March 27-29 March 30-April 1 April 2-4 April 5-8
Tangipahoa Parish School Board	March 24 - April 22	None
Three Rivers	March 24 - April 8	None
Tunica Hills South Tract	April 9-15	March 24-25 March 31 - April 1 April 7-8
Tunica Hills	April 9-15	March 24-25 March 31 - April 1

North Tract		April 7-8
Union	None	April 27-29
Walnut Hills	March 24 - April 22	None
West Bay	None	March 24-25 March 31 - April 1 April 7-8

G. Wildlife Management Area Lottery Youth Hunts

WMA	Lottery Youth Hunt Date
Bens Creek	March 17
Big Lake	March 24
Bodcau	March 24-25
Clear Creek	March 17
Fort Polk/Peason Ridge/ Calcasieu Ranger Dist.	March 17
Grassy Lake	March 17
Jackson-Bienville	March 24-25
Loggy Bayou	April 7-8
Pearl River	April 7
Pomme de Terre	April 7
Sherburne	March 17-18
Sicily Island	March 17
Spring Bayou	April 7
Tunica Hills	March 17
Union	April 7-8
West Bay	March 17

H. Non-lottery youth hunts

1. Bodcau WMA will be open April 21-22 (only youths may hunt).

2. Jackson-Bienville WMA will be open April 21-22 (only youths may hunt).

I. Wildlife Management Area Physically Challenged (Wheelchair Confined) Hunt

1. Jackson-Bienville WMA will be open April 23-29 to holders of valid Physically Challenged Hunter (Wheelchair Classification) Permits.

J. Federal Lands Turkey Hunting Schedule

1. Kisatchie National Forest (KNF) turkey hunting schedule: Caney Ranger District, March 31 - April 15; all remaining KNF lands, March 24 - April 15 (including Catahoula and Red Dirt National Wildlife Management Preserves).

2. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers turkey hunting schedule: Indian Bayou Area, March 17- 18 youth and physically challenged lottery only hunt, and lottery hunt only on March 24-25 and March 31 - April 1. Old River Control and Lock Areas, March 24 - April 8.

3. National Wildlife Refuges: Bogue Chitto NWR, March 24 - April 15; Lake Ophelia NWR, March 24 - April 8 hunt ends at 12:00 p.m. each day; Tensas NWR, March 24-25 (youth only), March 31 - April 15; Upper Ouachita NWR, March 24 (youth lottery only).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 25:2264 (November 1999), amended LR 26:2634 (November 2000), LR 27:2270 (December 2001), LR 28:2376 (November 2002), LR 29:2513 (November 2003), LR 30:2875 (December 2004), LR 31:3167

(December 2005), LR 32:2272 (December 2006), LR 33:2470
(November 2007), LR 35:90 (January 2009), LR 35:2481 (November
2009), LR 36:2583 (November 2010), LR 37: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including, but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statement, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Mr. Kenneth Ribbeck, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA, 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., September 7, 2011.

In accordance with Act #1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Stephen W. Sagrera

Chairman